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CARD AND SPECTACLES HOLDER

[kaado/megane horuda]

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CLAIMS

CLAIM 1: A card and spectacles holder, consisting of a lower case provided with a means for being mounted to a mounting site in an automobile interior, an upper case that covers the front face of said lower case, and a spectacles clip incorporated into the front face of said upper case;

wherein the aforementioned three components are mutually supported axially at their respective lower edges, and are capable of opening and closing by rotation within specified angles, and of maintaining said open or closed state;

and wherein a means is provided for holding a card between said lower case and upper case, and a means is provided for holding spectacles between said upper case and spectacles clip.

CLAIM 2: The card and spectacles holder according to claim 1, wherein said card holding means is a projecting part(s) provided on the front face of the lower case and forming a pocket or partial pocket, and said spectacles holding means grips its object between elastic members provided respectively on the front face of the upper case and the back face of the spectacles clip.

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers in the margin indicate pagination in the foreign text

CLAIM 3: The card and spectacles holder according to claims 1 and 2, wherein said open or closed state is maintained by elastic members provided respectively between the lower case and upper case and between the upper case and spectacles case, and by male-female interlocking means provided respectively on same.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0001]

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY: This invention relates to an implement for holding objects in an automobile interior.

[0002]

PRIOR ART: Automobile drivers and passengers have occasion to deal with various objects in the vehicle interior during a journey, but since space inside vehicles is limited, various methods have been devised in the past to skillfully organize and hold these objects, resulting in the development and practical realization of a range of holding fixtures suitable for holding these various objects.

[0003] Sunglasses are an essential item for a driver, and as would be expected there already exist holding fixtures in the form of spectacles holders designed to hold spectacles and sunglasses.

[0004] In addition, cards of various types have become ubiquitous, and most people nowadays walk around carrying a considerable range of cards. Similarly a driver must now carry in their vehicle various cards including highway cards, gasoline stand members cards and cards issued at expressway tollbooths, and card holders designed to hold such cards have also been developed and sold.

[0005]

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED BY THE INVENTION: However, with different holders designed to hold different items separately, the vehicle interior ends up becoming cluttered with holders. Therefore this invention integrates said spectacles holder and card holder while maintaining the easy-to-use structure of each, and is further designed to be mounted at a site inside the vehicle that will not be a hindrance.

[0006]

MEANS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM: This invention overcomes the aforementioned problems by providing a card and spectacles holder, consisting of a lower case provided with a means for being mounted to a mounting site in an automobile interior, an upper case that covers the front face of said lower case, and a spectacles clip incorporated into the front face of said upper case; wherein the aforementioned

three components are mutually supported axially at their respective lower edges, and are capable of opening and closing by rotation within specified angles, and of maintaining said open or closed state; and wherein a means is provided for holding a card between said lower case and upper case, and a means is provided for holding spectacles between said upper case and spectacles clip.

[0007] The aforementioned problem is further solved if, in the previous paragraph, the card holding means is a projecting part(s) provided on the front face of the lower case and forming a pocket or partial pocket, and said spectacles holding means grips its object between elastic members provided respectively on the front face of the upper case and the back face of the spectacles clip.

[0008] The aforementioned problem is further solved if, in the preceding two paragraphs, said open or closed state is maintained by elastic members provided respectively between the lower case and upper case and between the upper case and spectacles case, and by male-female interlocking means provided respectively on same.

[0009]

EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION: This invention combines in an overlaid manner the three components of a lower case provided with a means for being mounted to the mounting

site in the vehicle interior, an upper case covering the front face thereof, and a spectacles clip incorporated into the front face of said upper clip, the three elements being assembled so as to be mutually supported axially at the lower edges thereof and thus capable of closure and rotation to a specified angle. The invention thus provides a means for holding cards between lower case and upper case, and a means for holding spectacles between upper case and spectacles clip.

[0010] The card holding means holds cards inserted therein, either by way of a pocket-shaped holding part formed in the front face of the lower case, or a pair of left and right L-shaped holding parts provided to constitute a partial pocket. After card insertion, if the upper case is closed and then locked by the locking male-female locking means formed on opposing sides, a tidy appearance is presented and there is no chance for the cards to go flying about due to vibration and jolting in the vehicle.

[0011] For the spectacles holding means, an elastic member such as a piece of sponge is attached to the front face of the upper case and the rear face of the spectacles clip by a method such as gluing, and the temples of the spectacles are held tightly between said elastic members. Then by

closing and locking the spectacles clip, the spectacles can be securely held without being damaged.

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[0012] With regard to the relative position of the elastic means such as a spring or sponge, mounted respectively between the lower case and upper case and between the upper case and spectacles clip, and the male-female interlocking means provided respectively between lower case and upper case and between upper case and spectacles clip, each can be kept open or closed, and if a push button or the like is provided, opening and closing can be easily performed by the operation thereof, making it easy to store and retrieve cards, spectacles, sunglasses, etc.

[0013]

**EMBODIMENTS:** An embodiment of this invention is described below with reference to the drawings. FIG.1 is an explanatory drawing of the object holder of this invention. Numeral 1 indicates the main body of the card and spectacles holder. This main body 1 is formed of three components each mutually supported axially at their respective lower edges and able to mutually rotate to a specified angle. The main body 1 is thus essentially constituted to be rotated to a closed position when not needed, and to be opened when needed.

[0014] Numeral 11 indicates the lower case forming the base part of the main body. Said lower case 11 is a plate-shape with upturned edges, formed from a resin such as ABS; and is provided with a mounting visor clip (described below) incorporated into its rear face; and further has an opposing pair of left and right guides 11c with L-shaped cross-section projecting forwards from its front face, the guides being formed so that a card 20 can be inserted therebetween. Numeral 11b is a card holder button, which is a projecting part integrated with and extending forwards from the upper edge of the lower case 11, and which has notches in both sides to allow locking with the edge of the upper case (described below) and release of the lock through deformation when pressed.

[0015] Numeral 12 indicates the centrally arranged upper case, which is a cover having a convex form so as to cover the front face of said lower case 11, and which is formed of the same resin as the lower case 11. The lower edge of the upper case 12 is axially supported at the lower edge of the lower case 11 so as to be rotatable. This state is illustrated in FIG. 2. Numeral 11a indicates axles each projecting inwardly from left and right within the thickness of those sections extending further downwards from the left and right lower edges of the lower case 11.

Each axle fits into an axle hole (not shown) formed at the left and right lower edges of the upper case 12.

[0016] Returning to FIG.1, a locking projection 12c is formed as a locking means on the upper edge of the upper case 12, and functions to maintain a closed state by entering into the engaging recess 11c on the lower face of the card holder button 11b on the lower case 11 when the upper case 12 is rotated and closed against the lower case 11.

[0017] A spring 3 is mounted between the lower edges of the lower case 11 and upper case 12. This state can be understood with reference to the partial cross-sectional side view shown in FIG. 3. When the upper case 12 is rotated and closed against the lower case 11, the spring 3 is compressed as it resists the direction of spring action. Accordingly when the card holder button 11b is pressed in this closed state, the projection 12c disengages from the engaging recess 11c and the biasing force of the spring 3 acts in the opening direction, causing the upper case 12 to rotate in the direction of the arrow F and to separate from the lower case 11, so that cards can be inserted or retrieved.

[0018] In FIG.1, numeral 13 indicates a spectacles clip. The spectacles clip is formed so as to cover part of the

front face of said upper case 12, and is formed of the same resin as the lower case 11. The upper edge of the spectacles clip is axially supported at the lower edge of the lower case 12 so as to be rotatable. This state is illustrated in FIG. 2. Numeral 13a indicates axles which project respectively left and right from the left and right sides of the lower edge of the spectacles clip 13, and which fit into axle holes (not shown) formed at left and right of the lower edge of the upper case 12.

[0019] Returning to FIG.1, a piece of plate-shaped sponge 4 is glued respectively to the front face of the upper case 12 and to the rear face of the spectacles clip 13. The pair of front and rear sponges 4 protect and hold the temple portion 30a of a pair of sunglasses 30 held in a sandwiched manner between the front face of the upper case 12 and the rear face of the spectacles clip 13.

[0020] A depressible spectacles holder button 12d having supporting point 12p as its supporting point is formed integrally on the front face of the upper case 12, and when the spectacles clip 13 is rotated and closed against the upper case 12, an engaging recess 12e provided on the lower edge of the spectacles holder button 12d engages and interlocks with a projection 13e projecting upwards from the stepped part on the back face of the spectacles clip 13.

In addition, in this closed state, the aforementioned pieces of sponge 4 are compressed together due to their thickness. Accordingly when the spectacles holder button 12d is pressed in this closed state, the projection 13e disengages from the engaging recess 12e and the elastic force between the pair of pieces of sponge 4 acts in the direction that causes the spectacles clip 13 to rotate and separate from the upper case 12.

[0021] FIG.4 is a cross-sectional side view showing the angles of opening when the lower case 11, upper case 12 and spectacles clip 13 rotate. In this embodiment, the maximum angle of opening between lower case 11 and upper case 12 is set to about 40 degrees, and the maximum angle of opening between upper case 12 and spectacles clip 13 is set to about 25 degrees. These angles are the limits of rotation defined by the point at which the lower edges of each component touch each other.

[0022] Numeral 2 is a visor clip. This visor clip is formed by bending an elastic wire, and is equipped on one side with a pair of end parts 2a that fit into the back face of the lower case 11, and on the other side with an end part 2b that sandwiches a part of the vehicle interior such as the sun visor between itself and the back face of the lower

case 11. FIG.6 shows an example of the invention when mounted. In the drawing, 40 is the sun visor.

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[0023] The card and spectacles holder of this invention constituted as described above is used in the following way. As shown in FIG.5, the two left and right end parts 2a of the visor clip 2 are mounted by insertion in the direction indicated by arrow A into the left and right recesses 11f in the back face of the lower case 11. Then, as shown in FIG.6, the card and spectacles holder is inserted onto the automobile's sun visor 40 and is attached thereto by virtue of the elasticity on the end part 2b of the visor clip 2.

[0024] If the attachment site is a wall-like area such as the dashboard face or console sides rather than the sun visor, double-sided adhesive tape 6 is used to adhere the rear face of the lower case 11 to the target surface, as indicated by the arrow C in FIG.5.

[0025] When the card holder button 11b on the main body 1 of the card and spectacles holder thus attached is pressed, the projection 12c on the upper case 12 disengages from the engaging recess 11c on the lower case 11, and the biasing force of the spring 3 rotates the upper case 12 so that same separates from the lower case, thereby opening a space therebetween. A card 20 can be held by being inserted in

the direction indicated by arrow D in FIG.1 between the pair of left and right L-shaped projections 11c. Then, if after insertion the upper case 12 is again closed in resistance against the acting force of the spring 3, the upper case 12 can be closed against the lower case 11 and locked by locking together the projection 12c and engaging recess 11c.

[0026] Next, when the spectacles clip button 12d is pressed, the projection 13e disengages from the engaging recess 12e, and the elastic force between the pair of pieces of sponge 4 causes the spectacles clip 13 to rotate and to separate from the upper case 12. In the space opened up therebetween, the folded up temples 30a of the spectacles 30 are held by being inserted as indicated by arrow E in FIG. 1 so as to be sandwiched, and the spectacles clip 13 is then closed by being pushed. The spectacles clip 13 is once again locked by the projection 13e engaging with the engaging recess 12e, and the temples 30a of the spectacles 30 are gripped at front and rear by the pieces of sponge 4 so as to be securely held without being damaged.

[0027] In the above embodiment, a spring was used as the elastic member mounted between the lower case 11 and upper case 12, and the elastic member mounted between the upper case 12 and spectacles clip 13 was a piece of sponge 4

which also functioned to hold spectacles. It is however acceptable for both elastic members to be springs or to be elastic material such as sponge.

[0028]

EFFECTS OF THE INVENTION: As described above, of the various holders for arranging and holding objects inside a vehicle, this invention combines a spectacles holder and card holder into a single unit while maintaining the easy-to-use structure of each, and said holder is further designed to be mounted at a site inside the vehicle that will not be a hindrance. Therefore the vehicle interior can be neatly ordered and arranged and important items can be simply and easily retrieved, thus also contributing to safer driving.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view illustrating the whole of one embodiment of this invention.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view illustrating a part of one embodiment of this invention.

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional side view of one embodiment of this invention.

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional side view of one embodiment of this invention.

FIG. 5 is an explanatory drawing of the mounting means of one embodiment of this invention.

FIG. 6 is an explanatory drawing of one embodiment of this invention when mounted.

#### EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

- 1 Main body
- 2 Visor clip
- 3 Spring
- 4 Sponge
- 11 Lower case
- 11a Axle
- 11b Card holder button
- 11c Engaging recess
- 12 Upper case
- 12c Projection
- 12d Spectacles holder button
- 12e Engaging recess
- 13 Spectacles clip
- 13a Axle
- 13e Projection
- 20 Card
- 30 Spectacles
- 40 Sun visor

Figure 1

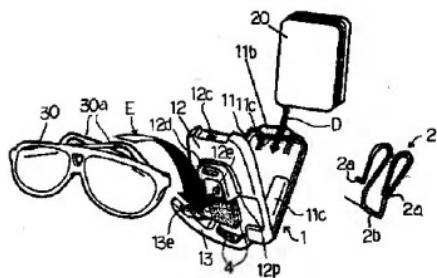


Figure 2

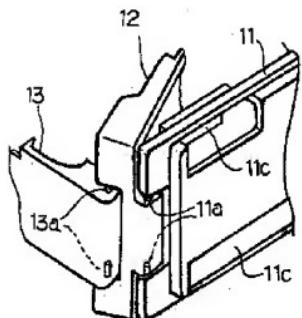


Figure 3

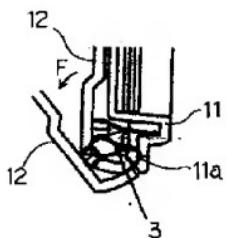


Figure 4

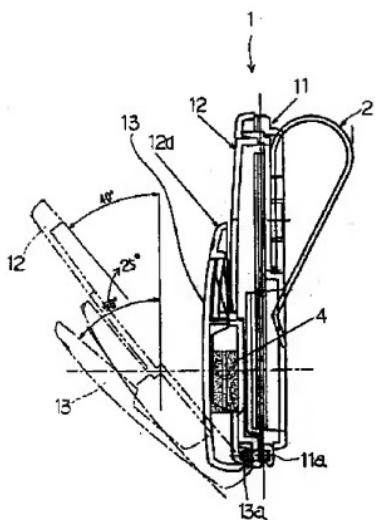


Figure 5

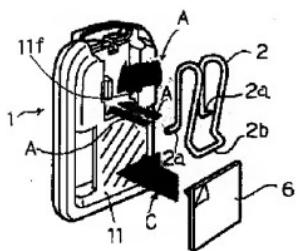


Figure 6

